

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3819

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PE

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION ON
MAAGS AND SIMILAR ADVISORY MISSIONS OVERSEAS

REF: STATE 97277, LIMA 1331

1. STATE REFTEL ASKED MY VIEWS ON A MAAG STRUCTURE IN PERU THAT WOULD BE MOST DEFENSIBLE IN THE FACE OF STRONG CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO CONTINUATION OF MILGRPS IN THEIR PRESENT FORM AND WITH THEIR PRESENT FUNCTIONS. MY RESPONSE IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO DETERMINE THAT A REASONABLE PROGRAM OF ARMS SALES TO PERU, INCLUDING FMS CREDIT SALES, AND PROVISION OF TRAINING TO PERUVIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING GRANT TRAINING, SERVE U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS. (I BELIEVE THEY DO.)

2. IN MY JUDGEMENT, THE PRESENT MAAG STRUCTURE AND MANNING IN PERU SHOULD BE CONTINUED. IT IS LEAN, STREAMLINED AND MAY EVEN REPRESENT A PATTERN APPLICABLE ELSEWHERE. THE MAAG HERE IS COMPOSED OF SEVEN U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL: THE COMUSMILGP, A TRI-SERVICE MATERIEL AND LOGISTICS OFFICER, A TRI-SERVICE MAP COORDINATION AND TRAINING OFFICER, AND FOUR NCO'S. THERE ARE ALSO FOUR PERUVIAN EMPLOYEES. (SEE LIMA 1331)

3. TO THIS "CORE GROUP", WE ADD TDY MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS
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AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAMS AS NEEDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH

THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS OR OTHER TRAINING NEEDS.

4. THE GOP IMPOSED THE PRESENT-MAN CEILING ON US SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND FROM THAT LIMITATION EVOLVED OUR PRESENT CORE/TDY CONCEPT. THE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONCEPT IS THAT WE MAINTAIN A "LEAN" PERMANENT MAAG PRESENCE AND BRING IN TDY PERSONNEL ONLY AS NEEDED WHO STAY THREE TO SIX MONTHS OR A YEAR OR TWO IN RARE INSTANCES.

5. GIVEN CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION ABOUT HOW BEST TO PURSUE U.S. INTERESTS IN PERU, I THINK OUR PRESENT MAAG CONCEPT, STRUCTURE AND MANNING SHOULD BE DEFENSIBLE WITH THE CONGRESS.
DEAN

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